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Typed or Printed Name		Martha Cisneros	
Signature		Date	
		February 6, 2003	
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111 Address to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231		Attorney Docket No.	GUID-003CONS
		Confirmation No.	1695
		First Named Inventor	TAYLOR, CHARLES S.
		Application Number	10/020,451
		Filing Date	December 14, 2001
		Group Art Unit	3736
		Examiner Name	NASSER, ROBERT L.
		Title: "SURGICAL DEVICES FOR IMPOSING A NEGATIVE PRESSURE TO STABILIZE CARDIAC TISSUE DURING SURGERY"	

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated November 4, 2002 for which a three-month period for response was given making this response due on or before February 4, 2003. A One-Month extension of time is requested herewith making the due date to respond on or before March 4, 2003. In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks put forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

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AMENDMENTS

FEB 20 2003

IN THE CLAIMS

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

15. (Amended) An instrument adapted to fix a portion of a beating part by applying a negative pressure thereto, said instrument comprising:

a member adapted to contact the portion of the beating heart, said member having at least one suction port adapted to deliver the negative pressure to the portion of the beating heart, at least one suction line for connecting said at least one suction port to a source of negative pressure, and a suction aperture interconnecting each said at least one suction port with said at least one suction line, wherein each said suction aperture has a cross-sectional area substantially smaller than a cross-sectional area of said suction port with which it connects.